

**Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful )**

**T/G/B**

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology

**P.R. - 32**

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

Epistemology 9  
Existence 3

Metaphysics -32  
Trans. 50

Reality –Logic 32,  
Truth 32

11/25/2013

The unique ministry of FBC of WT, TT in recovering what Satan has destroyed in his campaign against Truth and his crimes against the human intellect

**1. The Bible. Satan’s destruction of believers capacity to personally understand/love their Bibles.** What happened to Acts 17:11, *Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.*

**2. The church. Satan’s destruction of the nature and purpose of the church (e.g., schizophrenic philosophies that undermine truth)** What happened to 1 Tim. 3:15, *I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*

**3. The spiritual life. Satan’s destruction of the SL and virtue.** Only walking with God in *whole truth* is liberating and develops true spiritual virtue, Gen. 17:1; John 8:32.

**Stage 3**

**Stage 3 – Christian metaphysician = life of glory!**

- Metaphysical understanding of God.
- Virtuous love for God: Intellective, volitional, emotional love of God. Enduring fellowship.
- Life of “above all you could ever ask or imagine”

Holy Spirit  Bible Doctrine

**Stage 2**

**Stage 2 – Christian doctrinal believer = life of doctrine!**

- Nominal understanding of God.
- Through BD this believer has gained a great deal of perinoetic truth about God & the spiritual life.
- However, he continues to have some pagan views about God’s *nature* due to lack of metaphysics.
- He has become more stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence in absolute truths.

Holy Spirit  Bible Doctrine

**Stage 1**

**Stage 1 – Christian baby = life of ups and downs.**

- Utilitarian understanding of God.
- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God due to pagan horizon of meaning. All baby believers are tossed here and there by kosmos diabolicus, Eph. 4:14.
- For baby believers it is primarily about pragmatism. In other words, if it works or feels good , they think it must be true.

# EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

## 5 Principles on Existence

1. To get Existence/Being is to get the nature of ultimate reality and make a giant leap in your understanding of God and all of creation. Failure to grasp Existence as such will cause you many problems, e.g., you will live, to some extent, a schizophrenic life with regard to Reality; you will continue to retain irrational unbeliever philosophies like David Hume's common sense against miracles or Descartes' dualism that leads to deism or Kant's subjectivism that leads to fideism.
  - It is startling how many ungodly philosophies so many believers have today, even those with a lot of Bible doctrine.
  - The only way for them to break this curse is to understand Existence as Existence.
  - My job as pastor-teacher.

# EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

## 5 Principles on Existence

2. Look all around you. What is the most fundamental, the most basic, “thing” in all beings in this room? When you get down the very basics of everything, what is at ultimate bottom? To see this is enter the world of epistemological realism and get ultimate reality of all beings, which of course gets you straight to Being.

# EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

## 5 Principles on Existence

3. Review of structure of epistemological realism, which is the only epistemology that makes science and sure knowledge possible.
  - The knower. One must understand the nature of man (to avoid Cartesian dualism, and Kantian subjectivism).
  - The act of knowledge. One must understand the nature of reality and how it is represented by nouns, verbs, ptcs. Consider the grasp of the immaterial intellect to reach beyond its own materiality, indeed beyond all matter. Man's intellect transcends all matter when he forms for himself a notion of the universe, or the totality of consistently interacting material things.
  - The object known. One must understand the nature of reality, e.g., beings in existence and how they are always flowing from actual to potential.

# EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

## 5 Principles on Existence

4. It is Existence and epistemological realism that makes sure knowledge and science possible.
  - The reason ancient man never really advanced in the science of cosmology is because they never saw what Being it would require to create the universe (eternal universe, water, fire, atoms, integers).
  - It was the epistemological realism of theism and the Bible that played the decisive role in the thinking of Copernicus, Kepler, Newton, and Galileo. What held science back for so long was denial of contingency by many philosophies as well as science.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

### 5 Principles on Existence

4. It is Existence and epistemological realism that makes sure knowledge and science possible.
  - Rejection of Existence as such leads to all kinds of irrational metaphysical nonsense—which believers actually entertain—like the universe coming out of nothing. This contempt for logic and causation always sets science back as the mystery mongers would rather agonize in mysterious nonsense than submit to Esse. The problem with seeing Existence in epistemological realism is not in the external world, it is in the internal world of a suppressing irrational mind, e.g., Romans 1.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

### 5 Principles on Existence

4. It is Existence and epistemological realism that makes sure knowledge and science possible.
  - The singularity which is the hallmark of the cosmos both in its entirety and in all its details calls for Being/Existence capable of an act which is creative in the strictest sense.
  - Without Being/Existence, there is no singularity. Furthermore, there is no intermediate state between being and non-being.
  - Given the constants of physics, the singularity of the universe is even more inexplicable without Being/Esse.
  - Given the fact of singularity and the continuing laws of physics, only Being/Esse, He who Is, can be the sole explanation of the universe and all that is in it.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

### 5 Principles on Existence

4. It is Existence and epistemological realism that makes sure knowledge and science possible.
  - It was epistemological realism of Being and becoming that enabled Einstein to make the breakthroughs that eluded all others (e.g., finiteness of matter constituting the universe).
  - It was only the realist epistemology that enabled Einstein to discover the whole question of “becoming.”

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

### 5 Principles on Existence

4. It is Existence and epistemological realism that makes sure knowledge and science possible.
  - The singularity points to Existence and non-being. There is no transition.
  - Esse, He who Is, is the sole rational explanation that can be given for the limited existence of all beings.
  - Esse/Existence is the Ultimate Ground of all beings from the singularity to every act of every finite being comprehensively.

## EPISTEMOLOGY: #9, Grasp of Existence.3

### 5 Principles on Existence

5. Consider the modern gods man creates in order to avoid Esse, Non-created Being/Existence. It is impossible for man not to have a god of some kind. Here are some of the most popular:
  - Matter, the god that creates itself and keeps on giving its own operations.
  - Evolution, with its gods like Natural Selection and Survival of the Fittest, in which blind, mindless, matter, has the force “to do it all,” all the while hiding behind some personal power, Mother Nature.
  - Randomness, a god that somehow always comes up with this or that spectacular fine-tuning in nature.
  - Humean “common sense” god with no laws and no mind, but which rejects all miracles as irrational a priori.
  - Scalar Field, the unknown god, which is not matter or energy. It just some kind of “scalar field” that consists of some kind of mathematical construct (Hawking).

# Man – from salvation to sanctification

MIND



WILL

Romans 12: Spiritual Virtues

1. Verses 1-4: Virtues of the Christ-centered life.

- **Greatest vice: idolatry. Most common idol: personal autonomy.**
- **Easiest way to reject God: suppression**

2. Verses 4-8: Virtues of Genuine Humility.

3. Verses 9-21: Virtues of authentic love.

**VIRTUE** Intellective love  
Sense love



Mental states,  
Affections  
&  
Passions

“Emotions” is a  
Cartesian and  
Darwinian  
concept.

## Romans 12

### ➤ Virtues 1-4: The Preeminent Virtues before God.

- 1) **Present** your bodies to God: this includes body and soul.
- 2) **Stop being conformed** to this age: rejection of kosmos diabolicus.
- 3) **Be transformed** by the renewing of the mind: the power of the WOG.
- 4) **Discern** the good, enjoyable, and perfect will of God: ministry of HS

### Principles

1. It is important to make a distinction between **extrinsic positional salvation righteousness** of Romans 1-11 and the **intrinsic experiential sanctification righteousness** of Romans 12-16.
2. **Intrinsic experiential sanctification righteousness** is what you are in character, which is formed by habit (carnality or spirituality) and is to be distinguished from isolated acts of “righteousness” that occur when you are in fellowship with God.

- 1) **Present your bodies to God:** dedication to God.
- 2) **Stop being conformed to this age:** rejection of kosmos diabolicus.
- 3) **Be transformed by the renewing of the mind:** the power of the WOG.
- 4) **Discern the good, enjoyable, and perfect will of God:** ministry of HS

## Principles

3. Consider the *character* options for every believer as far as experiential righteousness. In other words, the kind of person you are and are becoming in the 4 categories above, e.g., is it your character to 1, 2, 3, 4?.
4. Remember, character is not about flashes or *isolated* acts of righteousness that you might accomplish under the FHS from time to time.
5. Character/virtue, is all about the kind of person you are and are increasingly becoming: in character, as human being, you are either godly in disposition or ungodly in disposition. Your disposition (mind, will, affections) flows from your character which is formed by your habits which is formed by your actions which is formed by your will which forms your desire and values.

- 1) **Present your bodies to God:** dedication to God.
- 2) **Stop being conformed to this age:** rejection of kosmos diabolicus.
- 3) **Be transformed by the renewing of the mind:** the power of the WOG.
- 4) **Discern the good, enjoyable, and perfect will of God:** ministry of HS

## Principles

6. Your love for God (1), His word (3), and His will (4) is directly related to your character, which is linked to your worldview (2). Consider how your view of the world effects your view of God, e.g., if one was afraid of being labeled by the world “a religious nut” because of your love for BD and virtue, if you were concerned it would affect 1, 3, and 4.
7. A look at what the Bible says about believers, unbelievers, vices, virtues, and kosmos diabolicus, Deut. 21:20; Prov. 16:28; 18:7-8; 20:19; 21:23; 23:1-2; 20-21; 25:16; Ezek. 16:49-50; Matt. 6:19-24; Mark 7:20-23; Rom. 1:29-32; 13:13; 1 Cor. 2:14; 3:1-4; 6:9-13, 10:6-8; 11:30-32; Gal. 5:16-26; Col. 3:1-11; 1 Tim. 5:13; 2 Tim. 4:2-4; Titus 1:12; Heb. 12:16; James 2:14-24; 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:3; Rev. 21:8.

## More on dedication and the development spiritual virtue:

1. Spiritual virtue is, like everything else, all about the act-potential development, the “completing” of our natures as human beings and as Christian beings (supernatural/spiritual virtues). Three areas of development.
  - Development of virtue in the intellect. This is the power to deliberate as a human being and as a Christian. Wisdom is gained through the HS, PR/reality, and the WOG.
  - Development of virtue in the will. Development of the will keeps a person from remaining sensate and obsessed with the food, sex, drink, and pleasure, which can cause a person to become a glutton, fornicator, and drunkard. As the person grows in virtue of the will, he gains the right appetites in all areas of life.
  - Development of virtue in the affections/emotions. Development of the believer’s feelings will result in mature and healthy emotional life that is in control of the intellect and will. With mature emotions the person is not needy for man’s approval nor a coward.

2. By growing in spiritual virtue, the believer thinks rightly, wishes rightly, and feels rightly; it is a part of his nature—his intrinsic character. He has the right thoughts about good, he has the right appetites about good, and the right emotional states about good.
  
3. Failing to grow in spiritual virtue means that the believer will continue to have bad/debased character with foul views, appetites, and emotions (cf., Mark 7:20-23; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Col. 3:1-11; Gal. 5:29-23).
  - Consider how useless it is to talk to someone with a debased character about the TGB, especially a person who has so given himself over to vice that he has corrupted his views of reality, his appetites, and emotions. His whole view of true, good, and beautiful is jaundiced. Review of hylemorphism or Thomistic dualism.

4. Just as virtue deals with the development of human nature according to its *telos*, so spiritual virtue is the development of the Christian according to his spiritual capacities. There are 3 cardinal virtues: faith (commitment to God), hope (in God), and love (for God). These virtues are only gained through fellowship with God, which brings in the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- a. Faith: this involves the mind, the will and the affections. God is the direct object of faith. You know Him with the mind, you trust Him with the will, and you have the proper feelings toward Him based on your understanding of Him.
  - b. Hope: This is faith, but directed to the future. God is still the direct object. Imagine the power of the one who has become a person of true hope.
  - c. Love: centered on God and the good of others—even neighbors and enemies. In love you truly want the best for the object of love.

## Structure of Romans 12

### ➤ Virtues 5-7: Spiritual virtues of genuine humility

- 5) **Don't think too highly** of yourself.
- 6) **Have sober judgment** about yourself (in relation to others).
- 7) **Serve others** with your spiritual gift.

Pride as a vice should never be confused with what is known as “taking pride” in accomplishments. There is a valid and healthy esteem that one can “take pride in” with regard to accomplishments, friends, family, and even country.

**Galatians 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.**

## ➤ Virtues 8-37: Spiritual virtues related to supernatural love

8) Genuine Love (γενέσθω). The virtue of love, the greatest virtue!

- 9) Abhorring evil,
- 10) Clinging to good,
- 11) Devoted to one another
- 12) Preferring one another,
- 13) Not lagging in diligence,
- 14) Fervent in Spirit,
- 15) Serving the Lord,
- 16) Rejoicing in hope
- 17) Persevering in tribulation
- 18) Devoted to prayer
- 19) Contributing to the needs of the saints
- 20) Practicing hospitality

**THESE VIRTUES ALL DEAL WITH SPIRITUAL LOVE –  
THE GREATEST CHRISTIAN VIRTUE.**

**ILLUSTRATIONS OF HOW LOVE CHANGES THE  
DIRECTION OF A PERSON'S THOUGHTS.**

- 21) Bless our persecutors
- 22) Don't curse our persecutors
- 23) Rejoice with those who rejoice
- 24) Weeping with those who weep
- 25) Being like-minded
- 26) Not being haughty,
- 27) Associating with lowly,
- 28) Not being wise in self-estimation
- 29) Not repaying evil for evil
- 30) Respecting what is right before all men
- 31) As far as possible, being at peace with all men
- 32) Never taking revenge
- 33) Trusting God to right the wrong
- 34) Feeding others (providing goods to enemies)
- 35) Giving drink to others (returning good to enemies)
- 36) Not being overcome by evil
- 37) Overcoming all evil.

**THIS IS A PICTURE OF HOW ONE ACCOMPLISHES SANCTIFICATION/SALVATION OVER THE POWER OF SIN, I.E. SPIRITUAL VIRTUE!**

## Spiritual virtue: supernatural love illustrated

### Moral love

**#9: hating evil (moral love)** (Ἀποστύγοῦντες τὸ πονηρόν), 9. True Christian love hates evil. Unless there is hatred for evil, there is no true love of what is good. One cannot love God and love evil simultaneously. People love what they think is their good.

## Love for true good

**#10: clinging to the good [goodness of love]** (κολλώμενοι τῷ ἀγαθῷ), 9.  
True Christian love loves true good. Our love will necessarily show itself in our determination to hold fast to the good. What is your good?

## Special love for the royal family of God

**#11: devotion to fellow believers in brotherly love [special love]**  
(φιλόστοργοιτῆ **φιλαδελφία** 10. Christian love naturally manifests its in love for fellow believers (1 John 3:14; Gal. 6:10).

## Preferential love and honor for fellow believers

**#12: in honor preferring fellow believers** (προηγούμενοι τῇ τιμῇ), 10 [preference in love]. True Christian love honors fellow believers. This is an expression of love in humility—“leading the way” in honor fellow believers.

## Faithfulness of love

**#13: not indolent, not lagging behind in diligence** (τῇ σπουδῇ μὴ ὀκνηροί), 11 [faithfulness in love]. True Christian love is not lazy or indolent about the things of God. Sloth is perhaps the most deadly sin today.

## Earnestness of love

**#14: being fervent in spirit** (τῷ πνεύματι **ζέοντες**), 11 [earnestness of love]. True Christian love is always fervent. Christ predicted that the love of many would grow cold in the last times, Matt. 24:12. Our lives are to ones of fervency regarding God and the things of God.

## Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

1. God's grave warnings regarding spiritual sloth.
  - Don't drift, Heb. 2:1-4
  - Don't wander, Heb. 3:12-13
  - Don't be dull or apathetic about God's Word, Heb. 5:11-6:8
  - Don't shrink back, Heb. 10:26-31.
  - Listen! 12:25-29.

## Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

2. Spiritual sloth is the most prevalent sin in our age. It is the sin that so clearly distinguishes modern Western society from all previous societies too.

## Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

### 3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- Spiritual sloth refuses to exert the will toward the Good.
- It is a sin against love of God. It robs a person for their appetite, interest, and enjoyment in God. The person stops pursuing God. There is a general indifference and dismissive attitude to God.
- Spiritual sloth should not be confused with general laziness. Generally, people who are spiritually slothful are frantically busy with their Martha-like world—cf., the frantic activism in our government.
- It is the most prevalent sin in modern society. We live in the first generation that does not know *who it is or why it is*.

## Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

### 3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- It is a sin of omission, not commission. There is little to no active seeking of God or His will in prayer or in the Word. It is *lack* of seeking God and hungering for righteousness.
- A cold sin, a sin of indifference that is described as making Christ want to vomit. Lack of devotion and love for God.
- Boredom with life and God. They have all kinds of entertainment gadgets but their souls are empty of the beauty of life and God.
- Stops man from seeking God, thus finding Him.
- Causes the light to be darkness and the salt to lose its saltiness. It tends to be amoral instead of immoral.

## Principles on spiritual indolence/sloth

### 3. Characteristics of *spiritual* sloth.

- No desire for spiritual and heavenly tasks or rewards. The idea that they could lose *eternal* rewards means nothing to them.
- The only antidote is hungering for God and His righteousness, Matt. 6.

## Genuineness of love illustrated in Romans 12

**#15: serving the Lord** (τῷ κυρίῳ **δουλεύοντες**), 11. True Christian love serves the Lord, the CCL. The genuineness of love. How can anyone say they really love the Lord if they are not serving Him? What kind of love is that? John 14:151; Colossians.

## The joy of love

**#16: rejoicing in hope** (τῇ ἐλπίδι **χαίροντες**), 12. True Christian love is filled with the joy of hope: the power of love for God in the presence of suffering and tribulation. What kind of love does not rejoice in the Lord and His hope? Joy and delight always follow love.

## The endurance of love

**#17: persevering in tribulation** (τῇ θλίψει ὑπομένοντες), 12. True Christian love will not give up during the trials of life. The endurance of love: only with true love for God and the things of God is this possible.

Consider Abraham's perseverance in testing.

## The devotion of love

**#18: devoted to prayer** (τῇ προσευχῇ **προσκατεροῦντες**), 12. True Christian love spends time with God in prayer.

## The unselfishness of love

**#19: contributing to the needs of the saints** (ταῖς χρείαις τῶν ἁγίων **κοινωνοῦντες**), 13. True Christian love is unselfish. See James 1:26-27.

## The large-heartedness of love

**#20: practicing hospitality** (τὴν φιλοξενίαν **διώκοντες**), 13. True Christian love is large-hearted.

## **Virtue: Love that blesses persecutors.**

#21: bless them which persecute you (εὐλογεῖτε). True Christian love loves enemies. This is straight from the Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5:10-11.

#22: do not curse (μὴ καταρᾶσθε). True Christian love does not curse enemies. Loving our enemies instead of running them down.

## **Virtue: love that empathizes**

#23: rejoice with those who rejoice (χαίρειν μετὰ χαιρόντων). True Christian love is happy for others; it is not envious. Love is always glad when others are blessed. Love is never envious.

#24: weep with those who weep (κλαίειν μετὰ κλαιόντων). True Christian love is compassionate.

## **Spiritual Virtue: a love that seeks common ground**

#25: be of the same mind toward one another (τὸ αὐτὸ εἰς ἀλλήλους φρονοῦντες). True Christian love seeks to find points of agreement.

## **Spiritual virtue: spurning pride and arrogance.**

#26: do not be haughty (μὴ τὰ ὑψηλὰ φρονοῦντες). True Christian love is not interested in pre-eminence.

#27-associate with the lowly (ταπεινοῖς συναπαγόμενοι). True Christian love cares for those of lower states, those others do not care about.

## **Spiritual virtue: love that avoids conceit**

#28: "Do not be wise in your own estimation" (μὴ γίνεσθε φρόνιμοι παρ' ἑαυτοῖς.) which is connected to following clauses in verse 17-19. True Christian love avoids occupation with self-importance.

## **Spiritual virtue: love that refuses to take revenge**

#29: never pay back evil (μηδενὶ κακὸν ἀντὶ κακοῦ ἀποδιδόντες). True Christian love does not desire revenge.

## **Spiritual virtue: love that respects the true, good, and beautiful**

#30: respect what is right/beautiful in the sight of all men (προνοούμενοι καλὰ ἐνώπιον πάντων ἀνθρώπων). True Christian love loves the true, good, and beautiful.

## Spiritual virtue: a love that seeks peace

#31: living at peace with all men (μετὰ πάντων ἀνθρώπων εἰρηνεύοντες). True Christian love always seeks peace.

#32: never take revenge (μὴ ἑαυτοὺς ἐκδικοῦντες). True Christian love is not vengeful.

## **Spiritual virtue: love that entrusts its cause to God.**

#33: leave room for [God's' wrath (δότε τόπον τῇ ὀργῇ). True Christian love is able to trust God to take care of the situation. Our character is far more important than the details.

## **Spiritual virtue: love that returns good for evil.**

#34: if your enemy is hungry feed him (ψώμιζε). True Christian love returns good for evil.

#35: if he is thirsty give him drink (πότιζε). True Christian love always seeks the benefit of others.

## **Spiritual virtue: love that overcomes evil with good**

#36: do not be overcome with evil (Μὴ νικῶ ὑπὸ τοῦ κακοῦ). True Christian love is not overcome with evil. Paul's crowing point. This cannot be done apart from true love, which only comes from God. You cannot overcome evil apart from love. Love with its affections, and yes passions do enable us to see better in certain circumstances.

#37: overcome evil with good (νίκα ἐν τῷ ἀγαθῷ τὸ κακόν). True Christian love overcomes evil with good. The good is all traced back to God and Christianity. This is the secret to life and to Christianity. There is nothing like this to be found anywhere among the nations before Christ.